

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1-7 and 16-19 having previously been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 8-10, 15, 20, and 21 currently stand rejected. Claims 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment claims 8-11, 15 and 20-21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 12-14 are amended, and new claims 22-31 are added. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

The allowability of claims 11-14 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged. New independent claim 22 has been added as a combination of claims 8, 9, 10 and 11 using clarified language. It is respectfully submitted that the scope of newly added claim 22 is not substantially different from the combination of pending claims 8-11. Independent claim 22 is believed to be allowable and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Each of claims 12-14 and new claims 23-31 depends directly or indirectly from claim 22 and is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 22. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Support for the limitations of new claim 23 is found throughout the specification, for example in originally-filed claim 14. The limitations of new claim 24 find support throughout the specification, for example in originally-filed claim 15. The limitations of new claim 25 find support throughout the specification, for example in originally-filed claim 16. The limitations of new claim 26 find support throughout the specification, for example at page 7, lines 12-25. The limitations of new claim 27 are supported throughout the specification, for example in originally-filed claim 1. The limitations of new claim 28 are supported throughout the specification, for example at page 7, lines 12-25. The limitations of new claim 29 are found throughout the specification, for example at page 7, lines 12-25. The limitations of new claim 30 find support throughout the specification, for example at page 7, lines 12-25. The limitations of new claim 31 find support throughout the specification, for example at page 7, lines 12-25.

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35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8-10, 15, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over Kang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,230), taken in view of John (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,619). Without acceding to the Examiner's rejections of these claims, claims 8-10, 15, 20 and 21 are being cancelled to expedite prosecution.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, any necessary extension of time is hereby requested. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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